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GENERAL

1. British views of recent Soviet moves--According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office regards recent Soviet moves (including the 28 January statement on Western Union and the Atlantic Pact, the note to Norway, and the 30 January Stalin interview) as part of the new Soviet "peace offensive" to handicap or prevent further consolidation of the west. The Foreign Office considers that the underlying reason for Soviet action at this time is the Kremlin's serious concern over the success of the European recovery program, the recent decision of the Western Union powers to establish a European council, and the imminence of the completion of an Atlantic Pact. The Foreign Office concludes that the present Soviet moves should prompt the US to "key up" all activities building the strength of the west.

CIA-5

2. Norway ready for Atlantic Pact discussions--US Ambassador Bay in Oslo has been informed by Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange that the Scandinavian defense conference failed to reach an agreement because of Norway's determination to remain free to initiate and pursue military discussions at any time. Lange indicated that although the Government is opposed to providing foreign military bases in Norway, the Norwegians are now prepared to initiate conferences with the western powers soon in order to plan military strategy and defense. Lange is extremely doubtful that the Danes will join an Atlantic Pact because he believes such action would split the Government party through the middle.

S-TS

Denmark may delay North Atlantic decision--US Ambassador Marvel in Copenhagen expresses the view that no clear decision will be made on Denmark's position regarding the North Atlantic Pact for some time because of

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the hope that still exists among Danish officials that the US will give its blessing to a neutral Scandinavian bloc. Marvel considers that Denmark will express this hope to Washington with the supporting argument that Danish adherence to the North Atlantic Pact would bring on a governmental crisis and cause new elections which would give radical and Communist parties sufficient gains to assure Communist representation on parliamentary committees. Marvel further believes that if this hope is extinguished, Denmark will, after a period of "mourning," seek North Atlantic membership without facing any serious internal repercussions.

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